

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A radio communication method for a radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system including a base station controlling apparatus, a plurality of base stations, and a plurality of mobile stations, the radio communication method comprising the steps of:

informing, by the base station controlling apparatus~~[,]~~ or by the one of the plurality of base stations, and the one of the plurality of mobile stations, that a first code being used by the one of the plurality of mobile stations is to be switched to a second code;

transmitting timing information by message to the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said timing information regarding timing of switching from the first code to the second code;

switching from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said step of switching from the first code to the second code based on the step of informing and on the transmitted timing information;

switching a spreading code from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of base stations in synchronization with switching from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, and

transmitting a completion message from the one of the plurality of mobile stations to one of the plurality of base stations or to the base station controlling apparatus to indicate completion of the step of switching a spreading code from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system comprising:

a base station controlling apparatus;

a plurality of base stations; and

a plurality of mobile station, wherein

the base station controlling apparatus or one of the plurality of base stations includes a code switch informing unit configured to inform one of the plurality of mobile stations that a first code being used by the one of the plurality of mobile stations is to be switched to a second code,

the one of the plurality of base stations includes a timing information sending unit configured to transmit timing information by message to the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said timing information regarding timing of switching from the first code to the second code,

the one of the plurality of mobile stations includes a code switching unit configured to switch the first code to the second code, based on the informing by the one of the plurality of base stations, and based on the timing information transmitted by the timing information sending unit, and to transmit a completion message to the base station controlling apparatus or to the one of the plurality of base stations to indicate completion of the step of switching at the one the plurality of mobile stations, and

the one of the plurality of base stations includes a switching unit configured to switch a spreading code from the first code to the second code in synchronization with the switching of the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) A radio communication method for a radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system including a base station controlling apparatus, a plurality of base stations, and a plurality of mobile stations, the radio ~~communications~~ communication method comprising the steps of:

informing, by the base station controlling apparatus or by one of the plurality of base stations, one of said plurality of mobile stations that a first code being used by the one of the plurality of mobile stations is being switched to a second code;

transmitting timing information by message to the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said timing information regarding timing of switching from the first code to the second code;

switching from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said step of switching from the first code to the second code based on the step of informing and on the transmitted timing information;

switching a spreading code from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of base stations based on the transmitted timing information; and

transmitting a completion message from the one of the plurality of mobile stations to the one of the plurality of base stations or to the base station controlling apparatus to indicate

completion of the step of switching a spreading code from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication system comprising:

a base station controlling apparatus;

a plurality of base stations; and

a plurality of mobile stations, wherein

the base station controlling apparatus or one of the plurality of base stations includes a code switch informing unit configured to inform one of said plurality of mobile stations that a first code being used by the one of the plurality of mobile stations is being switched to a second code,

the base station controlling apparatus or the one of the plurality of base stations includes a timing information sending unit configured to transmit timing information by message to the one of the plurality of mobile stations, said timing information regarding timing of switching from the first code to the second code,

the one of the plurality of mobile stations includes a code switching sending unit configured to switch from the first code to the second code based on the informing by the base station controlling apparatus or one of the plurality of base stations and based on the transmitted timing information, the code switching sending unit also configured to transmit a completion message to the one of the plurality of base stations or to the base station controlling apparatus to indicate completion of the step of switching from the first code to the second code at the one of the plurality of mobile stations, and

the one of the plurality of base stations also including a switching unit configured to switch a spreading code from the first code to the second code based on the transmitted timing information.